

REMARKS

This responds to the Office Action dated May 14, 2007.

Claims 10 and 65 are amended. Claims 10-12 and 53-66 are now pending in this application.

§102 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 10, 12, 64 and 65 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Tsubota (U.S. Patent No. 5,361,660).

Claims 10, 12, and 64

Applicant has amended claim 10 to better describe the subject matter recited in the claim. Applicant believes claim 10 is not anticipated by the cited reference since the reference does not include each limitation recited in the claim. For instance, Applicant cannot find in the cited reference: wherein the lubricant is concentrated to a pre-determined location on the periphery such that the pre-determined location has more lubricant than other locations on the periphery, as recited in claim 10.

In contrast, the reference discusses that “[t]he cutting oil from the oil supply source 23 is mixed with air and is fed in an atomized state in the form of upward intermittent spurts from the pressurized air supply source to the interior of the cylindrical tool die 11, such that it sticks to the lower tool 7.” (Col. 4, lines 13-18). Thus, the reference discusses blowing atomized oil to cover the interior of the die. The atomized oil apparently covers the interior and the periphery of the die relatively equally. This is not the same as “wherein the lubricant is concentrated to a pre-determined location on the periphery such that the pre-determined location has more lubricant than other locations on the periphery,” as recited in claim 10.

Claims 12 and 64 include each limitation of their parent claim and are therefore also not anticipated by the cited reference. Reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Claim 65

Applicant has amended claim 65 to better describe the subject matter recited in the claim. Applicant believes claim 65 is not anticipated by the cited reference since the reference does not include each limitation recited in the claim. For instance, Applicant cannot find in the cited reference: delivering a lubricant to a periphery of the die hole, wherein the lubricant directed so

as to be concentrated at a specific location on the periphery of the die hole where the punch will cut through the aluminum portion of the sheet and such that the specific location has more lubricant than other locations on the periphery, as recited in claim 65.

Reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 11 and 66 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsubota (U.S. Patent No. 5,361,660) in view of Klint et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,288,715).

Claims 11 and 66 include each limitation of their respective parent claims and are not obvious in view of the cited references since the secondary reference does not overcome the deficiencies of the primary reference discussed above. Reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Claims 57 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsubota (U.S. Patent No. 5,361,660) in view of Klint et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,288,715) and further in view of 3M.

Claim 57 includes each limitation of its parent claim and is not obvious in view of the cited references since the secondary reference does not overcome the deficiencies of the primary reference discussed above. Reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney (612) 359-3267 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

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By their Representatives,

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being filed using the USPTO's electronic filing system EFS-Web, and is addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1436, Alexandria, VA 22313-1436 on this 12 day of July 2007.

Name

Signature